

MEMORANDUM

April 18, 2003

TO: Lompoc Interagency Work Group Members

SUBJECT: Meeting Summary – April 10, 2003 (Lompoc City Council Chambers)

Members present: LIWG facilitator – Jake Mackenzie; Air Resources Board – Lynn Baker; Celite Corporation – Chris Pauley; City of Lompoc – Dick DeWees, Stacy Lawson; Department of Health Services – Rick Kreutzer, Martha Harnly; Department of Pesticide Regulation – Paul Gosselin, Jay Schreider, Randy Segawa; Farm Bureau – Steve Jordan; Environmental Information Services – Deb Robinson; Lompoc community members – Dave Pierce, William Schuyler; Grower Shippers – Richard Quandt; Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment – Robert Schlag; Public Health Institute – K. Nasser; Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner's Office – Joe Karl; Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District – Joel Cordes; Santa Barbara County Health Department – Elliot Schulman; U.S. EPA Region IX – Ray Chavira; Volunteers for a Healthy Valley – George Rauh, Hedy Damery.

Other attendees: Central Coast Environmental Health Project – Eric Cardenas; Lompoc community members – Noreen Lapointe, David Vener; Lompoc Record – Bo Poertner; Lompoc growers - John Silva, Bob Campbell, Gerry Campbell; Santa Barbara News-Press – Nora Wallace; San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Department – Janice Campbell.

Introductions: LIWG members and observers introduced themselves. The meeting was introduced as the final LIWG meeting.

Pesticide sampling results: Randy Segawa presented the final report "Ambient Air Monitoring for Pesticides in Lompoc, California" to the LIWG. The report is posted to DPR's Lompoc Air Monitoring Project web site. Randy Segawa stated that the study design and reports were the product of the interagency Technical Advisory Group, a subcommittee of the LIWG. The monitoring was designed to answer three questions originally posed by the LIWG. The questions and answers are as follows from the executive summary:

- 1) Are residents of Lompoc exposed to pesticides? Yes.
- 2) If so, which pesticides and in what amounts? 27 pesticides were detected in one or more samples. MITC had the highest measured concentration, 1885 ng/m³.
- 3) Do measured levels exceed levels of concern to human health? No, the concentrations of the individual and the combined pesticides did not exceed health screening levels. However, concentrations of some pesticides may be higher during some days or months not monitored.

The DPR report concludes that "no further pesticide monitoring or investigation in the Lompoc area is warranted."

There were discussions about the uncertainty concerning the health significance of exposure to multiple pesticides. George Rauh asked if DPR wasn't concerned about the measured levels of MITC. Randy Segawa stated that DPR was concerned and was about to identify MITC and other MITC-generating pesticides as toxic air contaminants and that DPR would be considering the need for mitigation measures. George Rauh expressed concern about exposure to pesticides during stagnant unmonitored periods. Paul Gosselin stated that DPR had been looking into using air dispersion modeling to supplement monitoring data, in an attempt to address George's concern.

George Rauh asked about why so much metam-sodium or metam-potassium were being used in the Lompoc Valley. Steve Jordan stated that metam is being used more as an herbicide, not just as a soil fumigant. Another grower stated that more environmentally friendly herbicides are on the market, but not registered for many of the speciality crops grown in Lompoc. George Rauh asked DPR to work with the USDA IR-4 program to try to get more environmentally friendly herbicides permitted for use in Lompoc. Rick Kreutzer asked about the problems of using reduced risk pesticides on unapproved crops. Ray Chavira described the complexity of the U.S. EPA pesticide registration process. A grower stated that many of their available pesticide products are becoming less effective, and that due to lack of alternatives, growers were having to apply pesticides more often. Paul Gosselin stated that the legislature has asked DPR to evaluate efficiencies in the registration process.

Ray Chavira suggested that a registrant should be required to provide an analytical method for detecting a pesticide in air as a requirement for registration. Paul Gosselin stated that DPR was considering requiring air methods as part of data call-ins for fumigants.

Dave Pierce made several points and comments. He pointed out that there are no confidence limits on the monitoring data in DPR's report. The report does not address possible endocrine system disrupting effects of low concentrations of pesticides. The effects of inversion on pesticide drift were not studied in this program. He pointed out the recommendation of knowledgeable workers in the field is that pesticide applications should not be made during still air conditions because the first breeze in the morning after a night time application will blow concentrated pesticide into the town. I pointed out that current practices are contrary to this recommendation. The implication is that the current practice is contrary to best health protective measures and that the people of Lompoc are at risk of pesticide exposure because these recommendations are ignored.

A resident of Lompoc asked the LIWG to remember that we were talking about people, not just data points, and requested that their health be considered when decisions are made about spraying of pesticides.

A grower inquired about the estimated cost of the multi-year investigation in Lompoc. Paul Gosselin estimated the cost at about \$1 million.

Paul Gosselin stated that DPR would release meeting minutes with any action items.

Action items:

- 1) DPR will post Randy Segawa's presentation to the DPR Lompoc Air Monitoring Project web site.
- 2) DPR would follow up with Lompoc growers on their specific pesticide registration needs.

Other environmental issues:

Stacy Lawson presented a summary of the activities, findings and recommendations of the Other Environmental Issues Subcommittee (OEIS). Stacy summarized the OEIS' actions in reviewing information and the steps taken to assess the potential environmental impacts of: the diatomaceous earth processing facilities and crystalline silica; radon; Vandenberg Air Force Base; the Torch oil processing facility; use of anhydrous ammonia fertilizers; wind-blown dust from crop tilling; meteorological conditions; flower seed production; pollens and mold spores; and water quality. The evaluations of these potential sources of lung cancer did not reveal clear evidence of a relationship to respiratory illness in Lompoc, with the exception of radon. This confirmed source of respiratory illness (lung cancer) was found to occur naturally in Lompoc.

Lynn Baker briefly described the air monitoring for crystalline silica conducted by ARB in 2001. Steve Jordan asked why the pollen study had not been funded, considering all of the flower production west of town, while an estimated \$1 million had been spent on the pesticide study. There was a brief discussion that in the future there may be a need for a discussion of what is planted near towns regarding potential impacts on allergies. Rick Kreutzer stated that pollens and molds aren't viewed as a cause of asthma, but may trigger asthma symptoms in someone with pre-existing asthma.

A question was raised if any radon testing had been conducted at public buildings in Lompoc. All of the radon kits distributed by the City of Lompoc were given to residents.

Stacy Lawson summarized recommendations of the OEIS, which included: that OEHHA should update the hospital discharge information and the Tri-Counties Regional Cancer Registry information related to respiratory illness in Lompoc, that radon information continue to be provided to residents of Lompoc, and that information be made available to the public on indoor air quality and reducing chemical use in homes and businesses. Bob Schlag commented that updating hospital discharge data may not be the best tool for assessing rates of bronchitis and asthma.

Action items:

- 1) The final OEIS Summary of Activities and Recommendations will be posted to the DPR Lompoc Air Monitoring Project web site.

- 2) ARB's final report "Pilot Study of Crystalline Silica in Ambient Air in Lompoc, California" will be posted to the DPR Lompoc Air Monitoring Project web site.

Health issues:

Rick Kreutzer and Elliot Schulman continued the discussion of hospital discharge data, stating that these data are not good measures of rates of illnesses, due to many factors determining whether a person is hospitalized. Elliot stated that the county had also looked at information on outpatient visits at clinics, but that data had not shown any significant trends. Rick and Elliot stated that the Health Subgroup had wanted monitoring results to evaluate whether any results exceeded levels of recognized toxicological significance. If high monitoring results were found, then further study would be needed regarding the relationship between pesticide exposure and illnesses. Since the monitoring results were low compared to the health screening levels, they concluded that there was no reason for further study, and no basis to extend the analysis that the Health Subgroup had been responsible for conducting.

Paul Gosselin stated that more and better exposure data were needed. Paul also stated that the multiple pesticide monitoring methodology should be expanded to other areas of the state.

Dave Pierce stated that a 90% confidence interval should have been used rather than a 99% confidence interval for cancer rates. Pierce felt that a 90% confidence interval would be more health protective and might show greater than expected rates of cancer. Pierce also stated that legislation was needed to encourage changes to be health protective with pesticide use.

Paul Gosselin said that he recognized that the concerns of the Lompoc residents were real and every effort was made to address them.

A grower felt that the other environmental issues had been glossed over. The grower asked Paul Gosselin whether Lompoc has health risk from pesticides. Paul said no, not based on the results of the pesticides that were monitored, at the times they were monitored.

Action items: None were noted.

Paul Gosselin thanked the Lompoc Interagency Work Group for completing their tasks.

Questions regarding this meeting summary should be directed to Randy Segawa of DPR at (916) 324-4137 or at rsegawa@cdpr.ca.gov.